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The Greenwich Village Bookshop Door: A Portal to Bohemia, 1920-1925


A close-up of signatures on the door. Novelist Upton Sinclair appears at the bottom of this selection. Image courtesy of the Harry Ransom Center.

An envelope sent from the bookshop to Christopher Morley in 1921. Image courtesy of the Harry Ransom Center.

Christopher Morley and Frank Shay baptize the store’s travelling shop, which took the shop’s stock to Provincetown, Massachusetts in the summers (1922). Image courtesy of the Harry Ransom Center.

An issue of The Greenwich Village Quill, where the shop advertised (1925). Image courtesy of the Harry Ransom Center.

An issue of the newspaper The Greenwich Villager, published at the bookshop (1921). Image courtesy of the Harry Ransom Center.

Edward Royce signed the door while he was working as a choreographer for the Ziegfeld Follies; he choreographed this Ziegfeld “Midnight Frolic” production (1920). Image courtesy of the Harry Ransom Center.

Signer William Gropper provided the art for this striking 1922 cover of The Liberator; the issue features work by four writers who also signed the door: Floyd Dell, John Dos Passos, Ivan Opffer, and Mary Heaton Vorse. Image courtesy of the Harry Ransom Center.